

Our VISION

Before I assumed my duties as Chief Research and Development Officer, I worked closely with the Office of Research and Development (ORD) to create a new vision statement that would succinctly and eloquently guide our efforts to improve health care for the nation's veterans. At first glance, the vision statement may seem obvious of course a research organization's role is to improve health care. It can take years, however, before research results are translated into practical clinical tools that directly improve the quality of health care. We in ORD believe that that is simply too long.



In response, we developed our bold vision statement as a means to transform VA's research program into a leading model for the country just imagine a world in which a research result discovered today is practiced clinically tomorrow! With our vision statement leading us, we are expanding our research in the following areas:

■ **Clinical research** We are expanding our clinical research portfolio to include issues that directly affect clinical practice, with an emphasis on research that provides knowledge for the practice of evidence-based medicine. In addition to increasing funding for clinical research studies, we will develop a new initiative to dramatically increase our clinical research capacity.

■ **Translation research** The development of information through research does not necessarily mean that that information is applied at the bedside. Therefore, ORD will expand research designed to identify the barriers to the rapid translation of research and to study new organizational structures with the potential to remove those barriers. Additionally, ORD will develop new programs in translation research to train new investigators in the scientific disciplines necessary to advance the field and will provide opportunities for managers to develop an understanding of those concepts.

■ **Quality measurement** Finally, once ORD's clinical and translation research portfolios have been expanded, we must make certain that the quality of health care is improving. Therefore, to ensure that VA's research program is directly affecting the quality of health care and to monitor the differences our efforts are making, we will expand our health services quality measurement portfolio.

As you can see, this is a very dynamic, exciting time for VA Research. With our compelling vision statement as our guide, we are ensuring that the VA Research community never loses sight of its ultimate goal to turn research results into improved health care for the nation's veterans and we are paving the way for today's VA Research to lead tomorrow's health care.

Nelda P. Wray, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Research and Development Officer

"TODAY'S VA RESEARCH LEADING TOMORROW'S HEALTH CARE"

*Vision Statement,
VHA Office of Research
& Development*